



Hanford Update

FALL 2004



U.S. Department of Energy -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency -- Washington State Department of Ecology

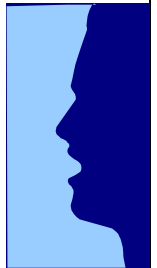
River Corridor Closure Contract Solicitation

On July 22, 2004, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) issued a Solicitation for the River Corridor Closure Contract (RCCC). For the full text of the Solicitation Number DE-RP06-04RL14566, refer to the DOE Website at: <http://e-center.doe.gov>. The contract scope includes building demolition and waste site remediation work in the 100, 300, 400, and 600 Areas on the Hanford Site along the Columbia River Corridor. The objectives of the RCCC are to:

- Accelerate remediation and reduce the risks from the surplus facilities and waste sites that are located along the Hanford River Corridor.
- Complete all required remediation in the Hanford River Corridor.
- Close the Hanford River Corridor and transition to long-term stewardship.
- Place a performance-based contract that drives the contractor to innovate and implement techniques that emphasize safe, efficient, and measurable results – on an aggressive schedule.
- Require significant acceleration of completion to 2015, with incentives to accelerate completion to 2012.

The contract structure, under a prime contractor, also promotes significant small business opportunities by providing for mandatory small business goals and minimum subcontract requirements. DOE has also established contractual requirements for a fair and equitable benefits program for all contractor employees. Proposals were due October 7, 2004. DOE said it will award the contract by January 31, 2005, if there are no follow-up discussions with bidder. The three teams bidding were: Washington Group International, Bechtel, CH2M Hill; Fluor Corporation; and Tetra Tech FW, Entergy.

Public Comment Periods (PCP) & Meetings



8/25/2004 – 11/1/2004

PCP for modification to Hanford Air Operating Permit.

10/11/2004 – 11/10/2004

PCP for PFP Above-Grade Structures engineering evaluation/cost analysis

10/20/2004 – 11/19/2004

PCP for 105-N Reactor Facility and 109-N Heat Exchanger Building engineering evaluation/cost analysis.

10/20/2004 – 11/19/2004

PCP for 100-K Area ancillary facilities engineering evaluation/cost analysis.

10/25/2004 – 12/1/2004

PCP for 300 Area engineering evaluation/cost analysis.

Hanford Cleanup Line

1-800-321-2008

Call the Hanford Cleanup Line for more information about these and other Hanford cleanup issues and activities.

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News & Notes

Updates & Status Reports

Hanford's Tank Farm Workers Achieve Major Tri-Party Agreement Cleanup Milestone

In ceremonies held August 23rd, the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of River Protection (USDOE-ORP), CH2M HILL Hanford Group (CH2M HILL), and guests celebrated with employees the completion of a major Hanford cleanup accomplishment – the removal of all pumpable liquids from 149 underground single-shell radioactive waste storage tanks.

Roy Schepens, Manager of USDOE-ORP, congratulated the assembled workers and guests saying, "I knew this day would come and we would celebrate this accomplishment together because I witnessed the enthusiasm and tenacity of the Hanford workforce. You have all done a wonderful job."

"While this is just one step on the path to completing Hanford tank cleanup, it has great significance for the people of the region and the environment," said Ed Aromi, President and General Manager for CH2M HILL. "It means these aging tanks, some of which date back to the beginning of the Manhattan Project, will never again be able to leak their contents into the surrounding soil. I am extremely proud of our dedicated workforce who worked so hard to reach this milestone."

The transfer of the liquids from the older single-shell tanks to safer, double-shell storage tanks, a project known as interim stabilization, began in the early stages of Hanford cleanup. However, in 1999 the USDOE-ORP and the State of Washington agreed to a more aggressive schedule to pump liquids from the remaining 29 tanks in a legally enforceable agreement called a "consent decree." The new schedule reflected a commitment to keeping the project on track and ensuring a safer Hanford. Pumping of the more than 3 million gallons was finished six months early.

"This is a major step towards reducing the risk that single-shell tank waste posed to our workers, the environment, and our community," said Roy Schepens, "By completing projects like this early, we can shift our resources to other work in Hanford's tank farms – to the next phase of tank waste cleanup – the retrieval of the sludges and solids that still remain in the single-shell tanks. That material, too, will be transferred to safer double-shell storage tanks."

Speakers who attended the celebration included Washington Fourth District Congressman Doc Hastings, Washington State Attorney General Christine Gregoire, Washington State Department of Ecology Nuclear Waste Program Manager Mike Wilson, and the Director of the Oregon Department of Energy, Mike Grainey.



A PROGRESS REPORT

FROM THE HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

By Todd Martin

Chair, Hanford Advisory Board

The Hanford Advisory Board was established ten years ago to provide advice to the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies on Hanford cleanup and waste management. The Board includes representatives of local and regional government, Native American tribes, business interests, workers, the State of Oregon, environmental organizations, agencies, public interest groups, and the public-at-large. Todd Martin, representing Citizens for a Clean Eastern Washington, chairs the Board. Susan Leckband, Non-union Non-Management employee representative, and Shelley Cimon, public-at-large, serve as co-vice chairs for the board. Principles adopted by the Board have helped to form a Northwest stakeholder vision of what the Hanford Site should be like in the future.

The Hanford Advisory Board hosted the Site Specifics Advisory Board (SSAB) Chairs; meeting October 6th – 8th. The SAABs are Boards similar to the Hanford Advisory Board from other DOE Environmental Management sites. Chairs from boards in Nevada, New Mexico, Colorado, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Idaho attended.

In addition to a tour of the Hanford site, the chairs discussed DOE plans to transport waste between sites for treatment, storage or disposal. The chairs have had a keen interest in the waste transportation issue for several years. Over the past two years, political, legal and logistical challenges have affected DOE shipment plans. At this meeting the chairs attempted to understand changes to waste shipment plans and further potential impacts.

The chairs also discussed the potential for a national stakeholder's workshop. Stakeholder workshops in the past have focused on specific topics such as transportation, Transuranic Waste disposal, and Long Term Stewardship. Topics for and upcoming stakeholder workshop that the chairs are currently considering include the future of public involvement and Risk Based End States.

The meeting included presentations from DOE-Headquarters personnel on Headquarter's organizational changes and DOE-Environmental Management's 2005 and 2006 budget outlook. Lastly, the chairs received presentations from both the Fernald and the Rock Flats Citizens Advisory Boards. These two sites are currently undergoing an administrative transition from DOE Environmental Management to DOE Legacy Management, the organization created to manage sites that have completed cleanup. Stakeholder communities at both Rocky Flats and Fernald have raised concerns about ongoing stakeholder involvement efforts after site transition.

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

The next meeting of the Board will be November 4th & 5th in Clackamas, OR. Public comment periods are provided during each day of the meeting. The Board encourages the public to attend its meetings and would like to hear from you about the issues and concerns you have about cleanup at Hanford. For more specific information on the Board meeting, please contact Sharon Braswell at 509-376-8503

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HAB:

www.hanford.gov/boards/hab/index.htm

SEND COMMENTS TO:

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News & Notes

Updates & Status Reports (Continued)

End States Workshop Recap

The second in a series of three workshops was held on August 11-12, 2004. The workshop was an attempt to clarify a vision for the 200 Area, or central portion, of the Hanford Site. The workshop focused on the central plateau uses and activities (exposure scenario development), buried waste/contaminated soils, and processing facilities, buildings, and structures. In general, people believed cleaning the central portion of the 200 Area to an industrial standard was appropriate. Participants discussed the importance of worker safety during cleanup activities and emphasized that all cleanup actions need to be protective of groundwater.

The land uses for the central plateau region have been generally articulated as part of a number of already conducted public involvement processes and activities. Based on these possible post-cleanup land uses, the end state related questions (primarily focusing on the time frame of 50 years into the future and beyond) were discussed. The potential range of activities for workers and/or visitors, both within and outside the core zone, was considered. Appropriate institutional controls were addressed based on the desired land use and exposure scenarios over given time frames.

At the end of the 200 Area End States Workshop, participants were asked again to write down comments on any aspect of the workshop, particularly lessons learned. These comments can be found online at: http://www.hanford.gov/docs/rbes/ES_Index.cfm.

The 100 Area End States workshop was held June 23-24, 2004. Activities planned for approximately the next 50 years are consistent with conservation and preservation of national monument land use under federal control. Activities would include preserving shrub steppe habitat, boating, fishing, hunting, swimming, hiking, and having a resident ranger.

In the long term, after a federal entity no longer controls the land, a broader range of activities are thought to be inevitable and should be evaluated. Although not necessarily endorsed, activities near a national monument might include residences, hotels with swimming pools, agriculture, and oil and gas leasing.

The workshops were viewed as an overall success by regulators, the Hanford Advisory Board, and the general public.

The 300 Area End States Workshop, originally scheduled for September 14-15, 2004, was postponed until April 2005. By that time, the U.S. Department of Energy will have completed the first phase of its reevaluation of the 300 Area groundwater remedy and the City of Richland will have completed a study of the redevelopment potential for the 300 Area.

Information from both studies will be necessary for stakeholders to engage in a constructive dialogue. An announcement will be sent to participants in the two previous workshops when the date has been determined. The workshop date will also be announced on the web page.

News & Notes

Updates & Status Reports (Continued)

100-N Pump & Treat

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is working with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement a remedial technology at the 100-N Reactor Site that will provide better performance than the existing pump-and-treat system for reducing the amount of strontium-90 (Sr^{90}) that reaches the Columbia River.

The Record of Decision (ROD) for 100-NR-01/02 requires DOE to "evaluate technologies for Sr^{90} and submit information to Ecology by October 2004." To meet this requirement, DOE will submit a letter report to Ecology/EPA by the end of October 2004. The letter report will describe the performance of the existing pump-and-treat system compared to the stated goals described in the ROD. The letter report will also summarize the outcome of the completed groundwater technology review performed by the Innovative Technology & Remediation Demonstration (ITRD) Project and any additional work completed since the ITRD report was published. Various items the letter will report are:

- recommend and provide supporting information to proceed with a treatability test plan for a treatment train;
- describe a contingency provision for trenchless permeable reactive barrier to meet the same objective if sequestering technology tests fail to meet the existing interim ROD objectives;
- evaluate the continued monitored natural attenuation for that portion of the plume that is not expected to reach the Columbia River;
- provide the justification for a temporary suspension of the pump-and-treat system for a period necessary to collect data required to meet the objectives of evaluating alternative treatment technologies;
- propose a schedule and milestones for the delivery of the treatability test plan and supporting documents; and
- recommend "performance criteria" for the alternative technologies, either for the reduction of Sr^{90} concentration at the river or Sr^{90} flux reduction to the river.

Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) Notice of Intent

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed decommissioning of the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF). Built in the 1970s, FFTF was used between 1982 and 1992 to develop and test advanced nuclear fuels, materials, equipment, and reactor safety designs for the Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor Program. The FFTF was also used in ancillary experimental activities to produce a variety of medical and industrial isotopes. DOE is proposing to decommission the deactivated FFTF and its support facilities to reduce long-term risks and surveillance and maintenance costs.

The public comment period ended on October 8th. Two public meetings were held on: September 22, 2004 at the Red Lion Inn in Richland, WA, and on September 30, 2004 at the Shilo Inn in Idaho Falls, ID.

The Draft EIS is expected to be out for public comment in Spring 2005.

Hanford Happenings

11/1/2004

Groundwater Remediation Project Monthly Open Meeting

Location: Fluor Hanford, 1200 Jadwin, Richland WA – 1st floor conf. room

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m

11/4-5/2004

Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) Meeting

Location: Monarch Hotel and Conference Center, 12566 SE 93rd Ave, Clackamas, OR 97015

Time: Nov 4th – 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Nov 5th – 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

11/17/2004

Inter Agency Management integration Team (IAMIT) Site wide management strategy work group meeting

Location: Washington State Department of Ecology, 3100 Port of Benton Blvd., Richland, WA

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

12/1/2004

Inter Agency Management integration Team (IAMIT) Site wide management strategy work group meeting

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